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Alberta Colleges & Institutes Faculties Association

Faculty Circuit

September - October 2011

President's Message

by David Hyttenrauch



Welcome to a new academic year. After some of the student funding glitches a year ago, I hope this year's start has been relatively smooth. I haven't heard much about student numbers yet, so I hope those are strong as well.

Thanks to our spring conference organizers from SAFA for an excellent spring conference in Lake Louise, and to next year's enthusiastic organizing committee from GPRC as they continue planning for ACIFA 2012 in Jasper.

The theme for this new year at ACIFA is renewal. A number of the activities at the Executive Council and Presidents' Council at our meetings this year will relate to this theme. First, work has begun on upgrading some of the record-keeping systems in the ACIFA office, with web site and communications as the next priorities. Executive is beginning work on a policy and procedures manual to capture existing processes, make improvements where appropriate, and gain the benefit of best practices elsewhere. At its fall meeting, Presidents' Council will be looking at ACIFA's overall organizational structure and will also receive a report on the vision survey process, ideally providing direction to ACIFA services and activities in the future. And our ongoing conversation with the Red Deer College Faculty Association about rejoining us continues this month as representatives of our Executive address one of their General Meetings before a vote on this important decision.

On the political side, this is a time of great uncertainty and opportunity. With the Liberal party, Alberta party and Progressive Conservative party all recently electing new leaders, including new Premier Allison Redford (who is conveniently also my MLA), there are good opportunities to argue for the value of post-secondary education. Earlier this fall I was approached by the new Alberta Party to review and critique their post-secondary education policy, and I was able to add value to it by pointing out some of the pressing issues and concerns among post-secondary faculty and their institutions. I have also been in contact with Premier Redford's campaign team about post-secondary issues during the leadership process; she was policy-focused during her leadership campaign but we will be writing a more substantial argument to her in the near future, encouraging her to refine her post-secondary policy directions, before putting them into action promptly, supporting the social and economic development of Alberta through PSE. In discussions with partner organizations (CAFA representing faculty of UofA, UofC, Lethbridge and Athabasca) and student groups, we can expect a provincial election anytime between Fall 2011 and (more likely) Spring 2012 as the new premier seeks a mandate.

Best wishes for a stimulating and productive year.

Dr. David Hyttenrauch

President
Alberta Colleges and Institutes Faculties Association

ACIFA Conference 2012 will take place June 3 – June 5 at the Jasper Park Lodge! See page 4 for more information.

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Meet the New Member of the ACIFA Executive Council

ACIFA would like to introduce the newly elected Vice President Professional Affairs, Erwin Ens. ACIFA would also like to congratulate Mike Durbeniuk who was re-elected as Executive Vice President and Bob Graves who was re-elected as Vice President, Records and Finance. The ACIFA Executive members were elected at the Annual General Meeting at the 2011 ACIFA Conference.

Erwin Ens, NorQuest College – Vice President, Professional Affairs



Erwin Ens was elected to the position of VP, Professional Affairs on the ACIFA Executive Council in the spring of 2011. Erwin began working as a Curriculum Specialist/Instructional Designer at NorQuest College in 2004 and has recently taken a position as Faculty Developer. He has served as VP, Professional Affairs for the NorQuest Faculty Association for the past several years and has participated in numerous college task teams and committees including Academic Council.

Annual ACIFA Climate Survey



The annual ACIFA Climate survey, distributed electronically through your faculty association office by mid-November, is a valuable tool for the tabulation and analysis of the views of academic staff members across the province, concerning working conditions and attitudes within their respective institutions.

The Climate Survey asks individual academic staff members to indicate level of agreement on a scale of 1 to 5, with thirteen statements such as:

Senior administration communicates openly with faculty.

I have the resources I need to do my job effectively.

The president of this institution provides effective leadership.

In addition, local academic staff associations may take the opportunity to include further questions specific to their own institutions.

The relatively high response rate from ACIFA members, along with the continuity from year to year of the thirteen core survey questions, provides a strong foundation to assist academic staff associations in discussions with their administration regarding key areas of concern within their institutions.

A comparative, cross-institutional score chart for each of the thirteen system wide questions will be published in the ACIFA Faculty Circuit next spring.

Please fill out your Survey by 5:00 p.m. December 16, 2011.

ACIFA Conference 2011

The 2011 ACIFA Conference, which took place at Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, had another record breaking year for attendance with nearly 250 registered attendees. The conference's sessions were very well attended, some being standing room only. Thank you to all of the presenters for their outstanding sessions and to the SAFA Conference Hosting Committee for all of their time and effort to ensure the conference ran smoothly.



The Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise.



Conference attendees take in the scenery during a biking activity session.



All pictures provided by Dylan R. Saunders, Instructor: IT CS Program, School of ICT, SAIT.

ACIFA Conference 2012

Look for the Call for Submissions in the next issue of the *Faculty Circuit*.



Sub-themes:

Commit to...students, self, colleagues, and profession. Ex. Topics in growth, energy, motivation, leadership, encouragement, enhancement, renewal, and retention.

Connect through...programs for one's institution, one's community, & the global collective. Ex. Topics in Trades, Arts & Humanities, Sciences, Business, Education, Travel studies, ESL, First Nations, Technology & Social Media, E-Learning, etc.

Collaborate with...community, other educational institutions, industry/private sector, and government to explore partnerships that provide new and progressive educational opportunities. Ex. New program development, Employment, Research, Publication

Let's Celebrate...our success, our students' success, and our potential for continued innovation, creativity, and excitement leading to educational excellence!

ACIFA 2012 Annual Spring Conference

June 3 – June 5, 2012

at the beautiful Jasper Park Lodge



hosted by the Grande Prairie College Academic Staff Association



Public Interest Alberta Events



Public Interest Alberta
Advocating for a Better Alberta for All

Oct 20th: What Is the Future of Learning in Canada?

7:00pm - 9:00pm, Thursday, October 20th, 2011

Education Building South (87 Ave & 113 St), Room 129, University of Alberta, Edmonton

With Dr. Paul Cappon -- President & CEO, Canadian Council on Learning Canada Is Slipping Down the Learning Curve

A presentation summarizing:

CCL's findings on all aspects of the learning cycle: from early childhood, through school, post-secondary education and adult and workplace learning and training. The impact Canada's slide down the international learning curve is having on the country's economic stability and social cohesion. The specific means and mechanisms Canada must consider for the country to meet its difficult national learning challenges. Followed by an open forum discussion on the future of life-long learning in Canada. Dr. Cappon has been a lifelong education advocate, community supporter and author of numerous publications on learning and community medicine. He has earned degrees in several fields including a PhD in sociology from the Université de Paris, a medical degree (MD) from McMaster University and a family medicine specialization from Dalhousie University.

Hosted by Public Interest Alberta, and supported by: Faculty of Education, University of Alberta; Edmonton Public Teachers' Local 37; Alberta Teachers' Association; Muttart Foundation; Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations; Success by 6 - United Way of the Alberta Capital Region

Full details can be found on the Public Interest Alberta website: www.pialberta.org

Oct 28th: PIA Fun(d) Night

Friday, October 28th, 2011

Sherbrooke Community League, 13008 122 Ave, Edmonton

Join us for an evening of fun and entertainment, featuring the music of St. James' Gate -- a dynamic, rocking Celtic band guaranteed to show everyone a howling good time!

Doors - 7pm

Program - 7:30pm

Tickets - \$30 or \$270 for a table of 10

Call Public Interest Alberta at 780-420-0471

*Prizes * Snacks * Cash Bar

* Dressing up (optional) could win you a prize for the best mask or costume!

Full details can be found on the Public Interest Alberta website: www.pialberta.org

Innovation in Teaching Award Recipient: Dr. Marla Middleton Freitag



Dr. Marla Middleton Freitag, the Office Technology Coordinator at Medicine Hat College, was presented with the **ACIFA 2011 Award for Innovation in Teaching** at the 2011 ACIFA Conference in Lake Louise this past May.


Connecting theory to practice and having students apply concepts they were learning in their writing class is what Dr. Marla Middleton Freitag had in mind with this project. She had the students complete real writing projects for real clients as if they were working for a company. Marla approached employees on campus and asked them to supply actual writing projects. Marla made videos set to the mission impossible theme of the clients making their project requests and then to introduce the projects she showed the videos to the students. These videos helped the students connect with the clients and allowed the students to learn about the projects from the source. The students completed all eight projects in teams and then the client for each project chose the winning project.

Examples of some of the projects that the students completed for the clients included: writing letters and reports; creating posters, flyers and invitations; and putting together a registration package for a conference. The clients providing the projects were very impressed with the quality of the students' work. The students not only enjoyed this project but they were also innovative, creative and resourceful and completed the projects to a high standard.

In addition, since grammar was part of the class, the students competed in two Grammar Game Show Competitions. These game shows were used as a review of the grammar material. The Grammar Game Shows were created using computer software and were shown on a big screen. The students used 'clickers' to select their answers and the computer calculated their scores. The students said they really enjoyed the game and found it an effective way to help them remember the grammar material.

Marla also created video scenarios using on-line animation software. The students watched the videos and then had the opportunity to apply and discuss concepts they were learning in class. For example, a video was created of two animation characters having an argument. After watching the video, the students analyzed the sources of the conflict and discussed how the conflict could have been resolved.

Marla found that these teaching applications engaged the students and increased their interest in writing.

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2012 Award For Innovation in Teaching

The aim of the Award for Innovation in Teaching is to recognize and encourage the use of innovative and creative teaching methods and design which lead to improved student learning.

This province-wide award attracts both recognition and a financial award of \$1,500 for the faculty member or team and \$500.00 for the faculty member's faculty association. Certificates of Commendation will be awarded to the two runners-up.

Eligibility

The Award is open to all ACIFA members. The nomination may be for an individual or a group/team. Nominations for the Award are made by colleagues with the consent of the innovator(s). Nominations must adhere to the *Format for Applications* below.

An innovation which has already received this Award cannot be resubmitted the following year. Innovations which have been unsuccessful but have received a Certificate of Commendation are eligible for resubmission, within the context of the guidelines, the following year.

The Nomination Process

Each participating ACIFA member association will conduct a nomination and selection process at the local level, in accordance with the guidelines in this document, to select **up to two nominees** to be submitted to the ACIFA Awards Committee. The ACIFA Awards Committee, established by the Professional Affairs Committee of ACIFA, will select the winner of the award from nominees put forward by each of the participating local faculty associations.

Selection Criteria

- The extent to which the innovation has had a practical outcome that improved teaching, learning, curriculum design, and/or assessment.
- Evidence of student satisfaction and learning outcomes.
- Evidence that the innovation was successfully integrated into the total learning process for the relevant course of study.
- The potential for the innovation to be applied to different fields of study
- The extent to which the innovation made effective and efficient use of resources.

Format for Applications: 2-3 page limit plus appendices

Please provide information in the following format:

1. Innovator/project team details: name(s), position, and college/institute
2. A description of the innovation
3. The rationale for implementing the change
4. The outcomes of the innovation
5. The wider application of the innovation in post-secondary education
6. Names and signatures of two nominees
7. Any supporting documentation to be attached as appendices

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Judging Panels: provincial and local

Five members, elected on an annual basis from and by the Professional Affairs Committee of ACIFA, will select the final award winner and up to two runners-up from the nominees submitted by the local faculty associations. The local faculty association judging committees are to be selected and structured by the local faculty association as they deem appropriate for their association.

Mutual Obligations

The ACIFA Awards Committee will award the winner of an Innovation/Creativity Award in Teaching with:

- An announcement in the ACIFA newsletter
- \$1,500.00 made available to the winner and another \$500.00 to the winner's faculty association
- A formal presentation at the ACIFA Annual Conference
- Coverage of expenses for the winner to attend the ACIFA Annual Conference to receive their award.

The Award winner will be expected to:

- Attend the ACIFA Annual Conference to accept the Award
- Agree to submit for publication in the ACIFA newsletter a description of the innovation and its successful implementation before the end of the year in which the Award was won.

Application Dates

Applications must be submitted to the faculty member's faculty association by the date set by the local faculty association. Each Association's selection process must be completed in time to submit their nominee to ACIFA by **February 24, 2011**.

The ACIFA Awards Committee will make the final decision by the third week of April to allow sufficient time to arrange for the recognition of the winner at the ACIFA Annual Conference.

*The 2012 award is sponsored and administered by
The Alberta Colleges and Technical Institutes Faculties Association
Johnson Inc. Insurance
and
The Alberta Public Post-Secondary Education Trust Fund.*

Upcoming ACIFA Dates

October 21, 2011 – Executive Council – Edmonton
October 22, 2011 – Presidents' Council – Edmonton
November 4, 2011 – Executive Council – Edmonton
November 5, 2011 – Professional Affairs Committee and
Negotiations Advisory Committee
– Edmonton
February 3, 2012 – Executive Council – Calgary
February 4, 2012 – Presidents' Council – Calgary
March 23, 2012 – Executive Council – Calgary
March 24, 2012 – Professional Affairs Committee and
Negotiations Advisory Committee
– Calgary
April 14, 2012 – Executive Council – Edmonton
June 3, 2012 – Presidents' Council – Jasper Park Lodge
June 5, 2012 – Annual General Meeting – Jasper Park
Lodge
June 3 – June 5 – Spring Conference – Jasper Park Lodge

Member Associations

Alberta College of Art and Design Faculty Association
Bow Valley College Faculty Association
Grande Prairie Regional College Academic Staff Association
Grant MacEwan University Faculty Association
Keyano College Faculty Association
Lakeland College Faculty Association
Lethbridge College Faculty Association
Medicine Hat College Faculty Association
Mount Royal Faculty Association
NAIT Academic Staff Association
NorQuest College Faculty Association
Northern Lakes College Faculty Association
Olds College Faculty Association
Portage College Faculty Association
SAIT Academic Faculty Association

The views expressed in Faculty Circuit are those of individuals and do not necessarily reflect ACIFA's policies and positions.

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